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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

<date respond>

<name>
<address>

Dear <salutation>:

Thank you for your <correspondence> concerning the Korean airline incident.

I, like most people around the world, grieve for the dead of Flight 007. The Soviet downing of the Korean airliner was tragic and unnecessary. Two-hundred and sixty-nine people, including sixty-one Americans, lost their lives because of the callous irrationality of Cold War hysteria and paranoia.

Who can condone the Soviet action? Indeed no one who cherishes peace and human life. But in light of this tragedy, we are forced to ask different questions. For instance, how can we avoid such unthinkable actions from occurring again in this dangerous nuclear age? How can we best preserve peace amidst so much suspicion between the superpowers?

The tragedy of the Korean airline incident further underscores the dire need for calm and straightforward dialogue between members of the international community; intensified discussion on the limitation of dangerous weapon systems, instead of continuing a blind, destructive arms race. More than ever, we must seek to open up channels of communication with both our allies and foes, and cut through the Cold War tension that currently pervades East-West relations.

Reflecting on the Korean airline incident, I am reminded that the pursuit of peace is not easy. Yet, we must continue to vigorously pursue all avenues to secure a safe, conflict-free world.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciated hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ronald V. Dellums
Member of Congress

RVD/ig

ANY REPLY TO THIS LETTER
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
OFFICE CHECKED

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